AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~1~~**21**, wherein the heat pipe has an internal pressure load that substantially stiffens the same against deformation.

4. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~1~~**21**, wherein the working fluid is methanol, or a combination of water and methanol.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~1~~**21**, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a magnetic material.

8. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~1~~**21**, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a nonconductive material having magnetic particles embedded therein.

9. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~1~~**21**, wherein the fuser roller is equipped with a pressure relief system to protect against over pressurization.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~10~~**14**, wherein the inductive heating is achieved via production of magnetic hysteresis or a combination of magnetic hysteresis and eddy currents in a wall of the heat pipe.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A method of ~~claim 10,~~ fusing a marking agent to an image receiving medium, said method comprising:

inductively heating a heat pipe including a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid; and,

applying heat from the heat pipe to a page of the image receiving medium carrying the marking agent thereon;

wherein the step of inductively heating includes electrically energizing an electrical coil inductively coupled to and surrounding an outer periphery of the heat pipe.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~10~~**14**, further comprising:

internally pressurizing the heat pipe with the working fluid, said working fluid having a pressure greater than or equal to approximately 135 psia at a designated operating temperature.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A fusing station for fusing toner to an image receiving medium, said fusing station comprising:

distribution means for evenly distributing heat, said heat distribution means including a heat pipe;

means for inductively heating the distribution means, wherein the means for inductively heating includes an electrical coil inductively coupled to and surrounding an outer periphery of the heat pipe; and,

means for pressing a page of toner carrying image receiving medium to the heat distribution means.

20. (Original) The fusing station of claim **19**, wherein the heat pipe includes a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fusing station ~~of claim 1~~ for fusing a marking agent to an imaging receiving medium, said fusing station comprising:

a fuser roller configured as a heat pipe including a sealed hollow cavity containing a working fluid;

a pressure roller that forms a nip with the fuser roller through which the image receiving medium passes; and,

an electrical coil inductively coupled to the fuser roller to inductively heat the fuser roller upon energizing the electrical coil with electrical power, wherein the electric coil surrounds an outer periphery of the fuser roll.

22. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim **3**, wherein the internal pressure load is applied by the working fluid having a pressure greater than or equal to approximately 135 psia at a designated operating temperature.

23. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim **22**, wherein the designated operating temperature is between approximately 350° F and approximately 400° F inclusive.

24. (Currently Amended) The fusing station of claim ~~1~~**21**, wherein a wall of the fuser roller is formed from a material having a thickness less than or equal to approximately 0.3 mm.

25. (Previously Presented) The fusing station of claim **9**, wherein the pressure relief system includes an automatic pressure release valve.